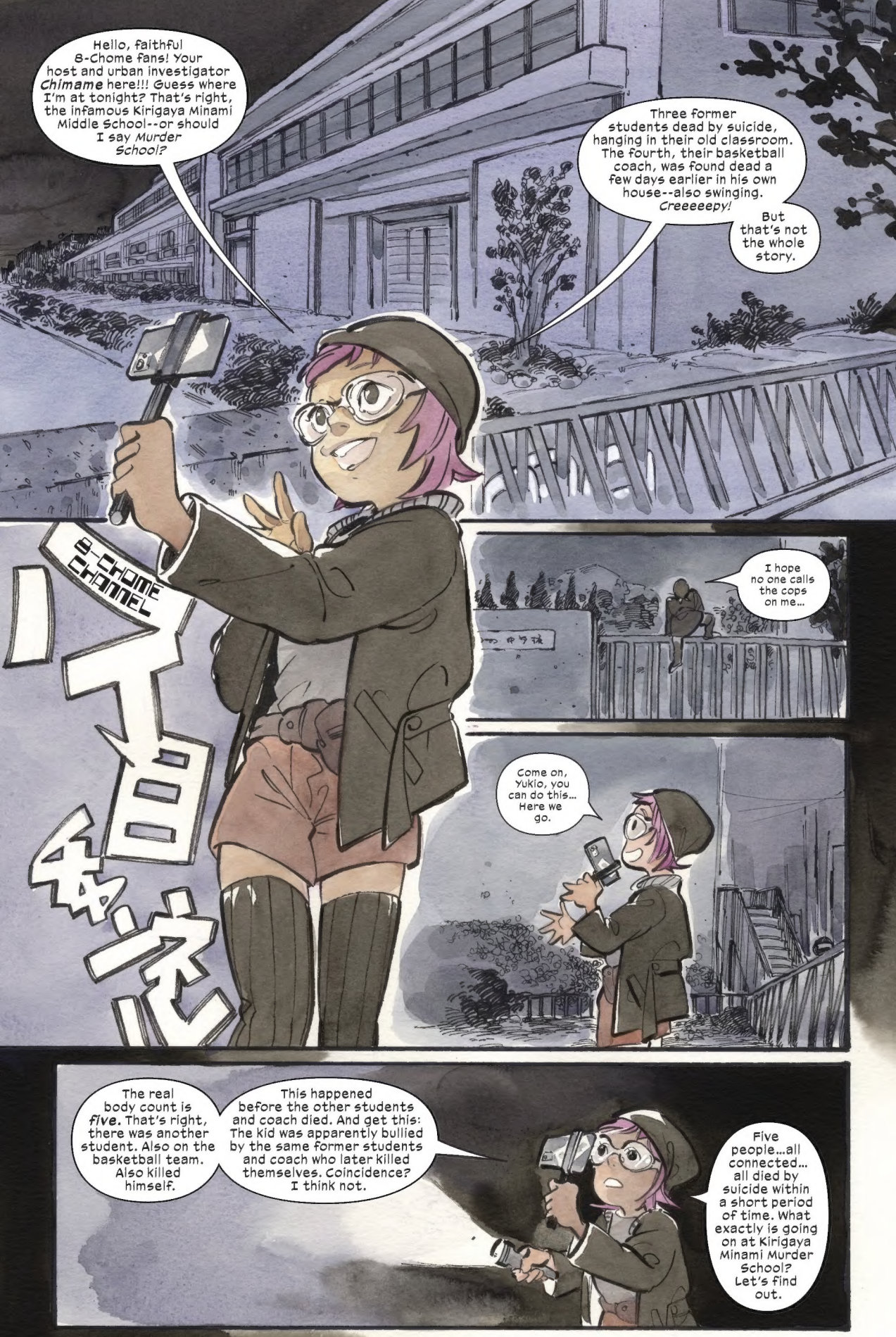
MARVEL

8

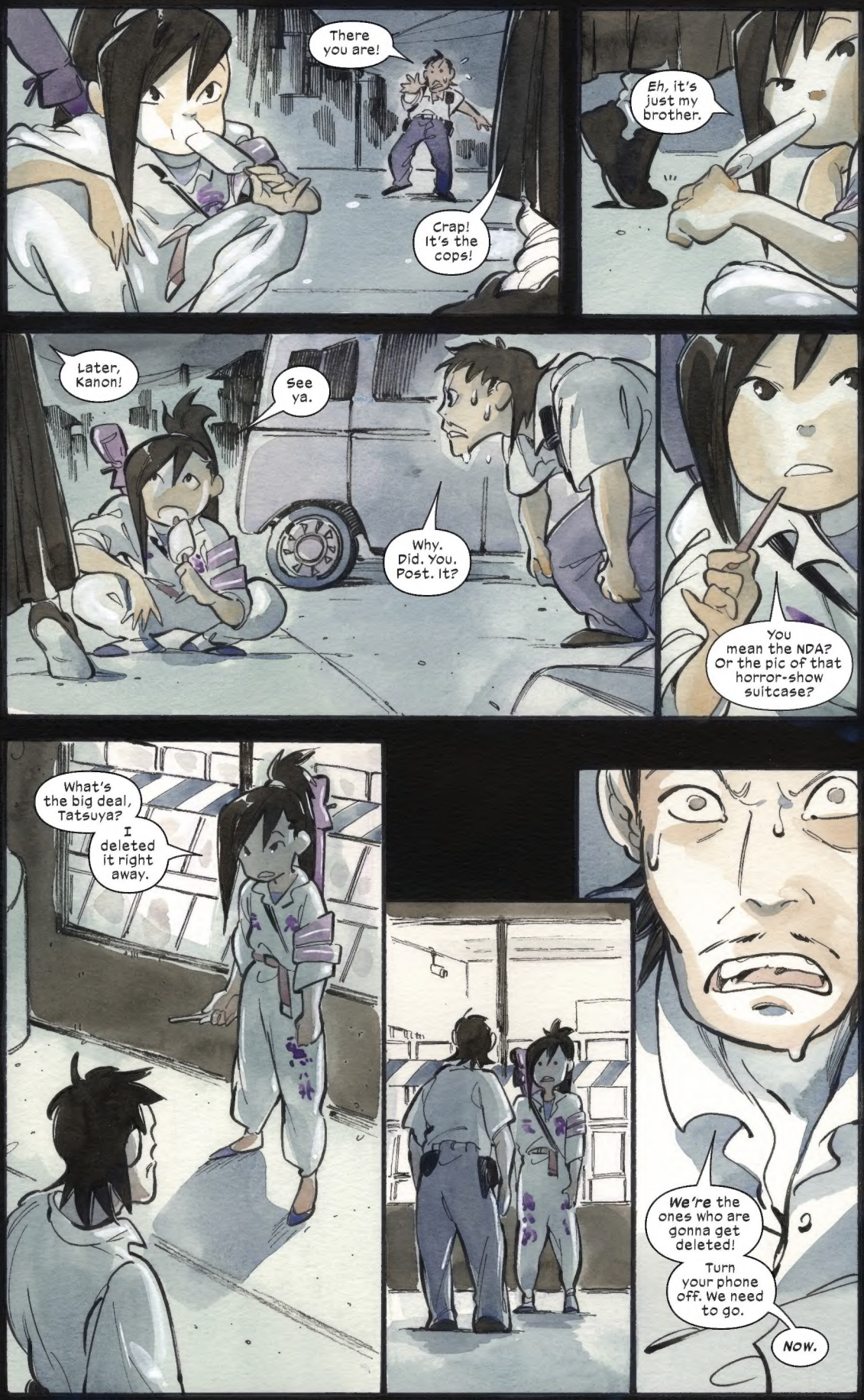
ULTIMATE X-MEN

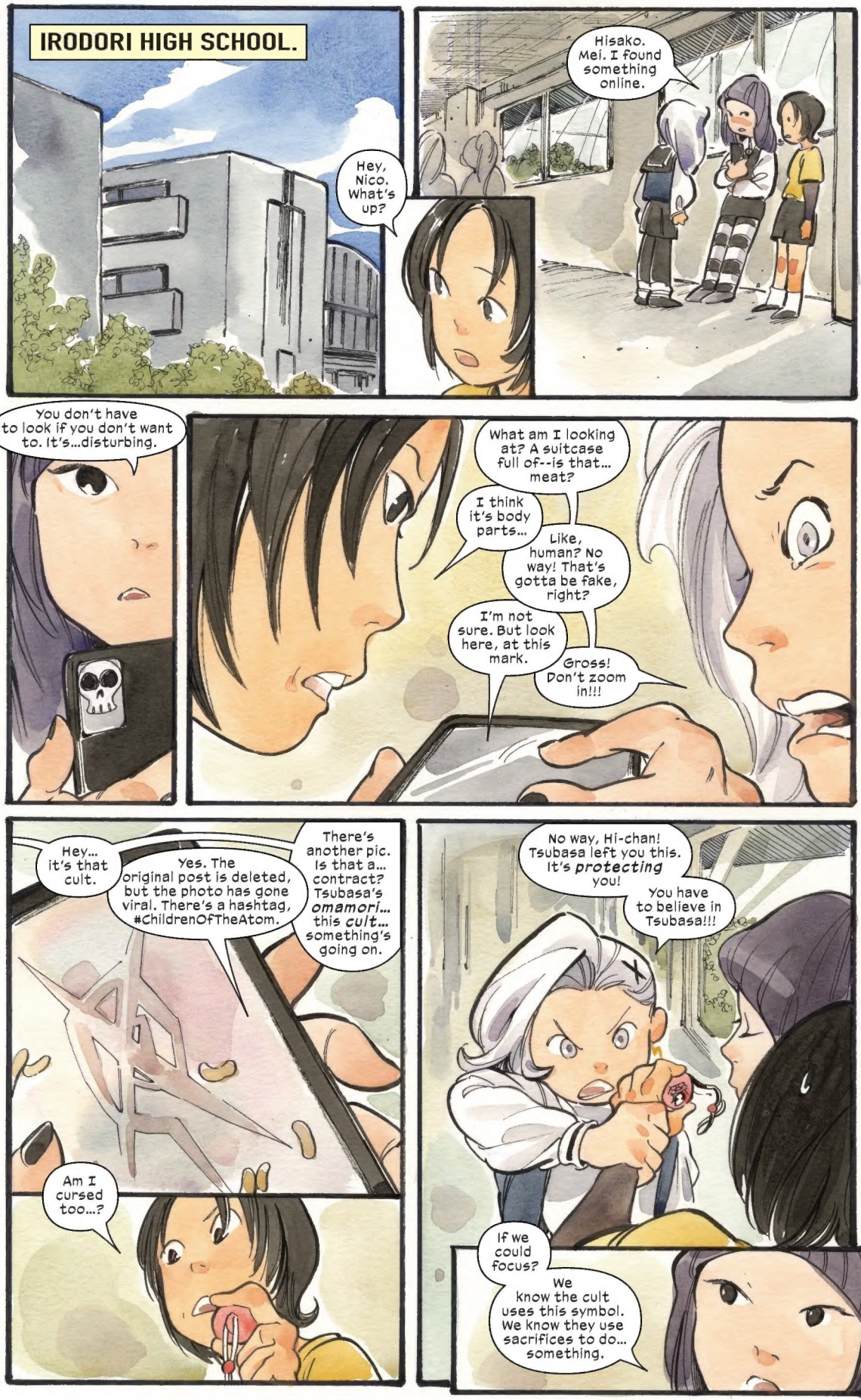
PEACH MOMOKO

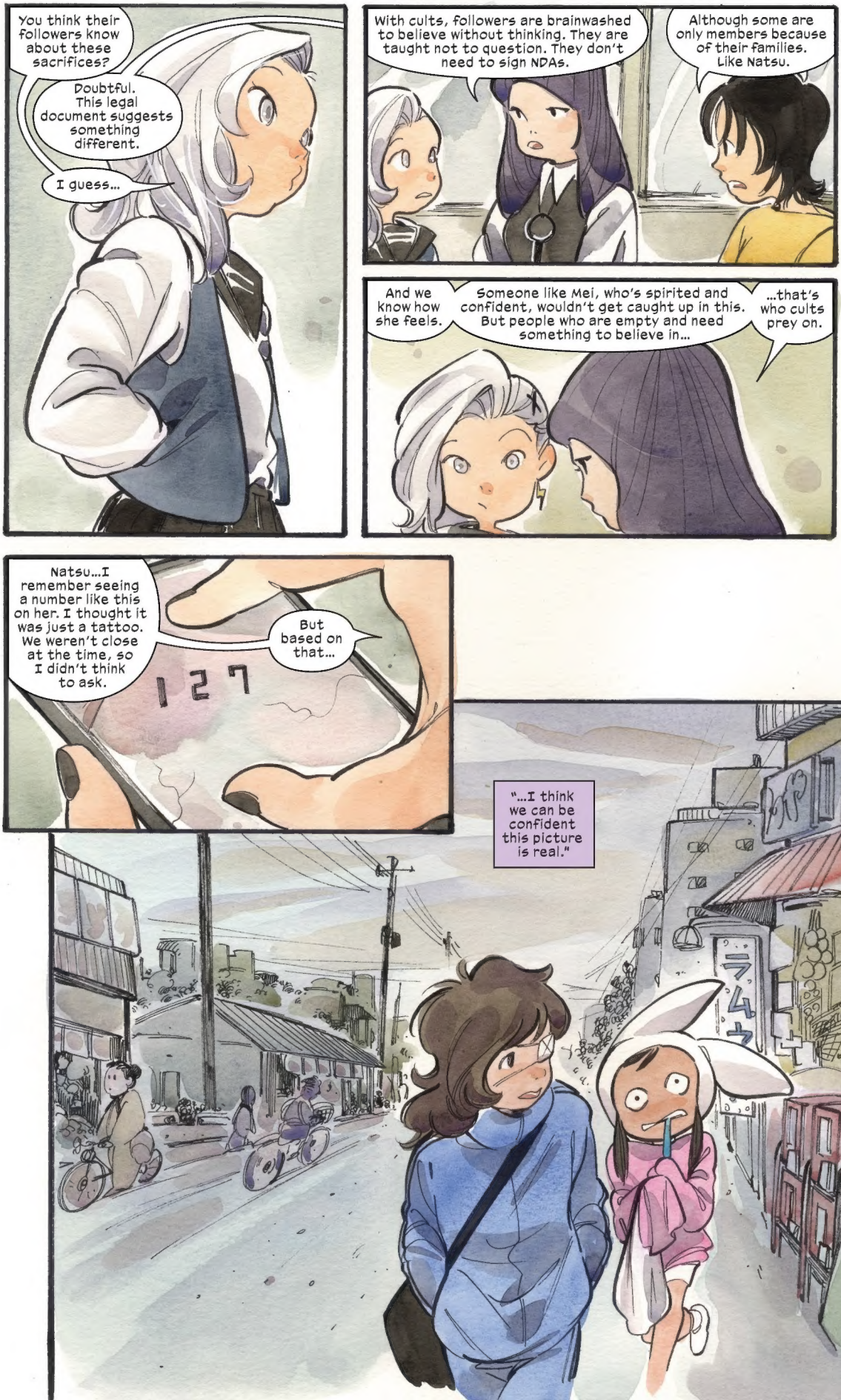
SEP. 2024 | RATED T+


Hello, faithful 8-Chome fans! Your host and urban investigator *Chimame* here!!! Guess where I'm at tonight? That's right, the infamous Kirigaya Minami Middle School--or should I say *Murder School?*
Three former students dead by suicide, hanging in their old classroom. The fourth, their basketball coach, was found dead a few days earlier in his own house--also swinging. *Creeeeepy!*
But that's not the whole story.
8-CHOME CHANNEL
I hope no one calls the cops on me...
Come on, Yukio, you can do this... Here we go.
The real body count is *five.* That's right, there was another student. Also on the basketball team. Also killed himself.
This happened before the other students and coach died. And get this: The kid was apparently bullied by the same former students and coach who later killed themselves. Coincidence? I think not.
Five people...all connected... all died by suicide within a short period of time. What exactly is going on at Kirigaya Minami Murder School? Let's find out.

It gets weirder. The first boy's name was Tsubasa. Rumor has it he was friends with that girl who went viral about four months ago-- #ArmorGirl.
You guys remember? With the pinkish red thing around her? Is she involved in all this?
Where is this basketball court...?
I tell you, I got a hunch Armor Girl knows something we don't.
If you're watching this, like, subscribe and comment. Let's talk!
HUUH HAA HAAA...
Kanon? Are you home?!
Damn it, Kanon, where are you?!
Probably hanging out at the stupid convenience store again.


There you are!
Crap! It's the cops!
Eh, it's just my brother.
Later, Kanon!
See ya.
Why. Did. You. Post. It?
You mean the NDA? Or the pic of that horror-show suitcase?
What's the big deal, Tatsuya?
I deleted it right away.
We're the ones who are gonna get deleted!
Turn your phone off. We need to go.
Now.

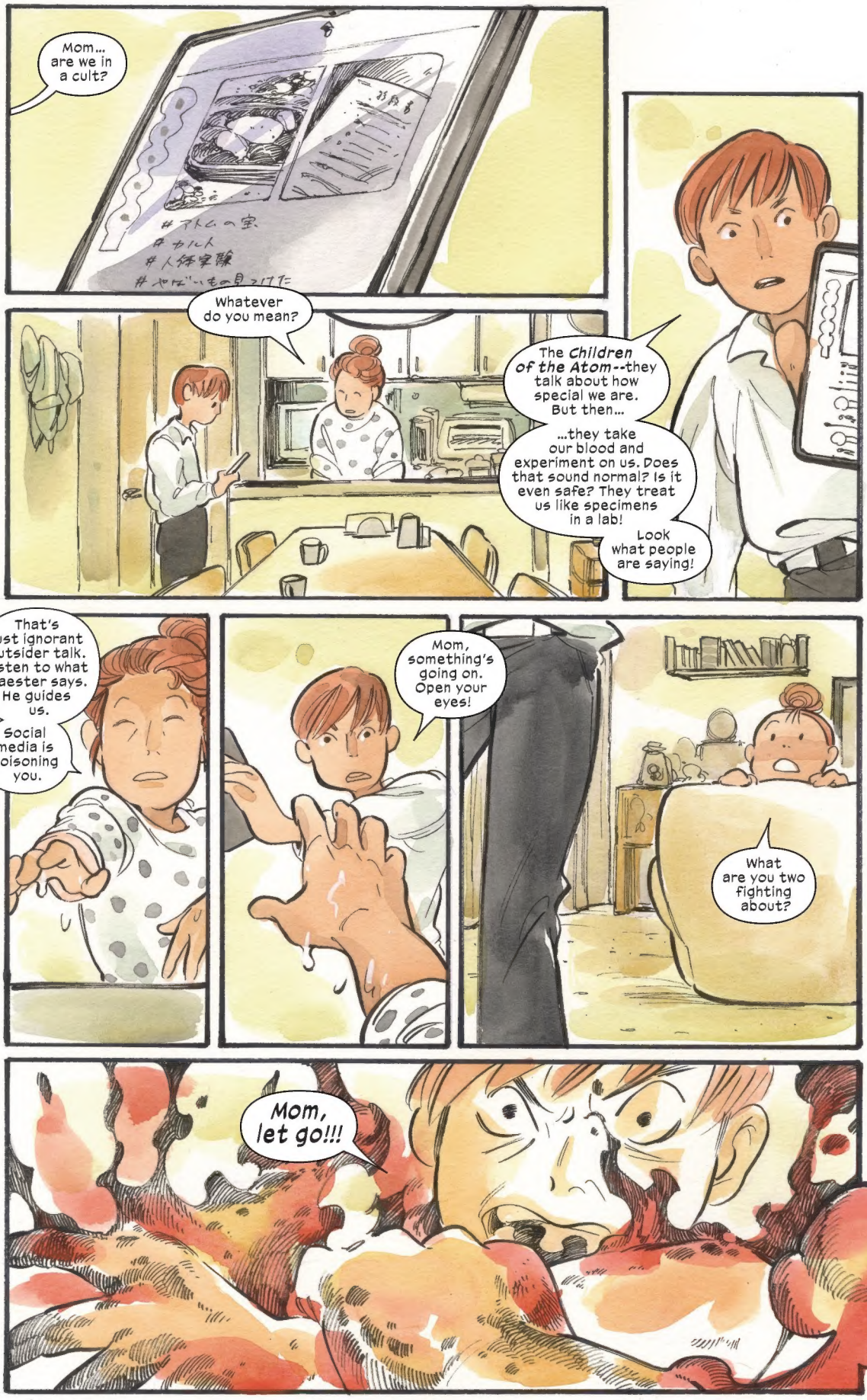

IRODORI HIGH SCHOOL.
Hey, Nico. What's up?
Hisako. Mei. I found something online.
You don't have to look if you don't want to. It's...disturbing.
What am I looking at? A suitcase full of--is that... meat?
I think it's body parts...
Like, human? No way! That's gotta be fake, right?
I'm not sure. But look here, at this mark.
Gross! Don't zoom in!!!
Hey... it's that cult.
Yes. The original post is deleted, but the photo has gone viral. There's a hashtag, #ChildrenOfTheAtom.
There's another pic. Is that a... contract? Tsubasa's *omamori*... this *cult*... something's going on.
Am I cursed too...?
No way, Hi-chan! Tsubasa left you this. It's *protecting* you!
You have to believe in Tsubasa!!!
If we could focus?
We know the cult uses this symbol. We know they use sacrifices to do... something.

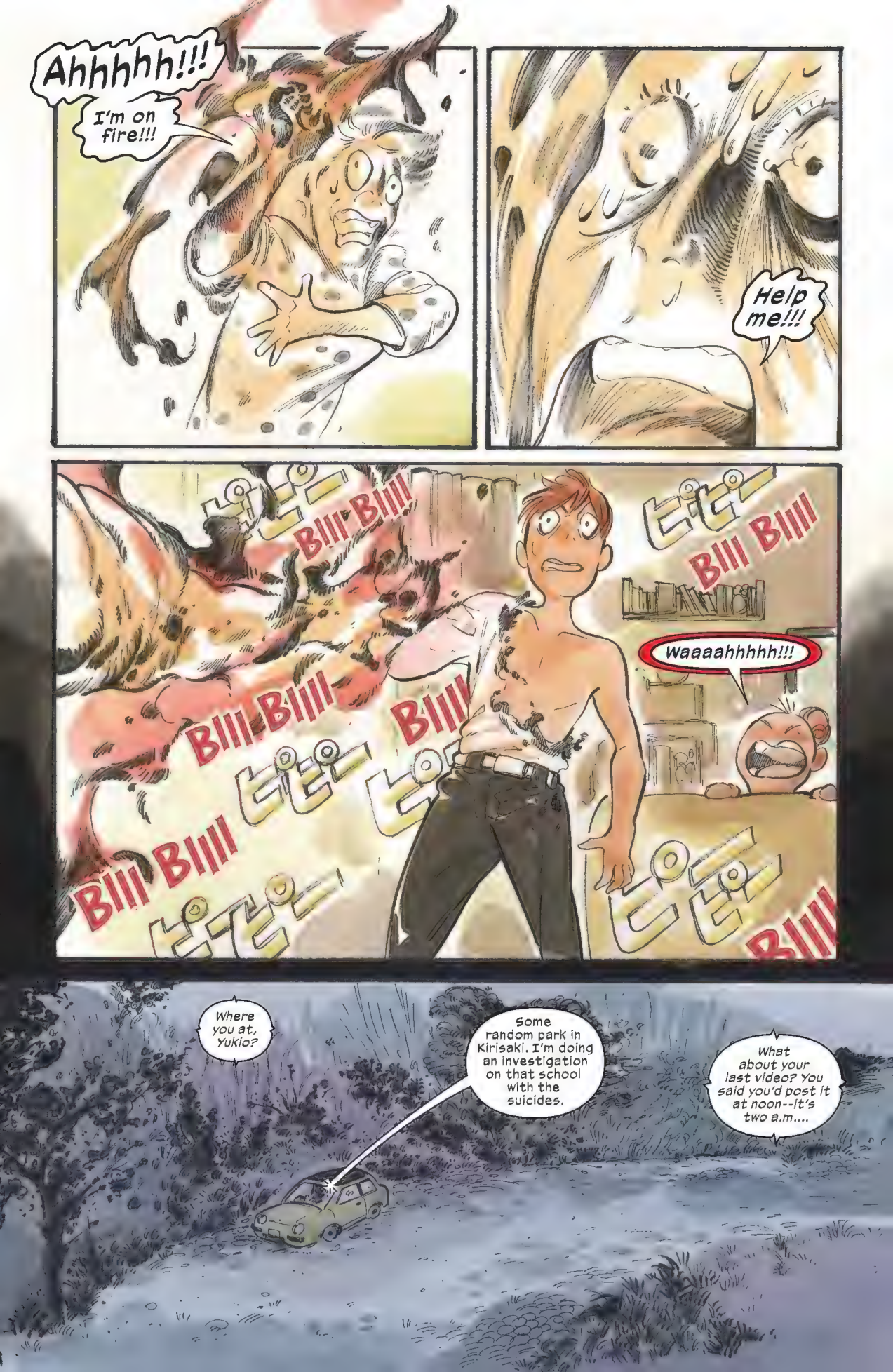

You think their followers know about these sacrifices?
Doubtful. This legal document suggests something different.
I guess...
With cults, followers are brainwashed to believe without thinking. They are taught not to question. They don't need to sign NDAs.
Although some are only members because of their families. Like Natsu.
And we know how she feels.
Someone like Mei, who's spirited and confident, wouldn't get caught up in this. But people who are empty and need something to believe in...
...that's who cults prey on.
Natsu...I remember seeing a number like this on her. I thought it was just a tattoo. We weren't close at the time, so I didn't think to ask.
But based on that...
127
"...I think we can be confident this picture is real."

Heeey, Nastu. That you, girl? It's been a while.
Cool eye patch.
You still hanging around that sad goth chick Nico?
Who are they?
Did that weird-ass religion of yours finally fix you?
Make you believe you have value?
Sorry, we're meeting some friends...
Don't you dare!

You think you can walk away from me?! You want to talk about *friends*?!
Be careful about being friends with Natsu.
Hey... let's just go...
She's a real killer.
What did she mean?
KRNK
See you.
Don't!

ZZAAARKT
Wh-what was that...?
Stay away from her. She's a *freak* in a *messed-up cult.*
And a *murderer.*


Mom... are we in a cult?
#アトムの宝
#カルト
#人体実験
#やばいもの見つけた
Whatever do you mean?
The Children of the Atom--they talk about how special we are. But then...
...they take our blood and experiment on us. Does that sound normal? Is it even safe? They treat us like specimens in a lab!
Look what people are saying!
That's just ignorant outsider talk. Listen to what Maester says. He guides us.
Social media is poisoning you.
Mom, something's going on. Open your eyes!
What are you two fighting about?
Mom, let go!!!

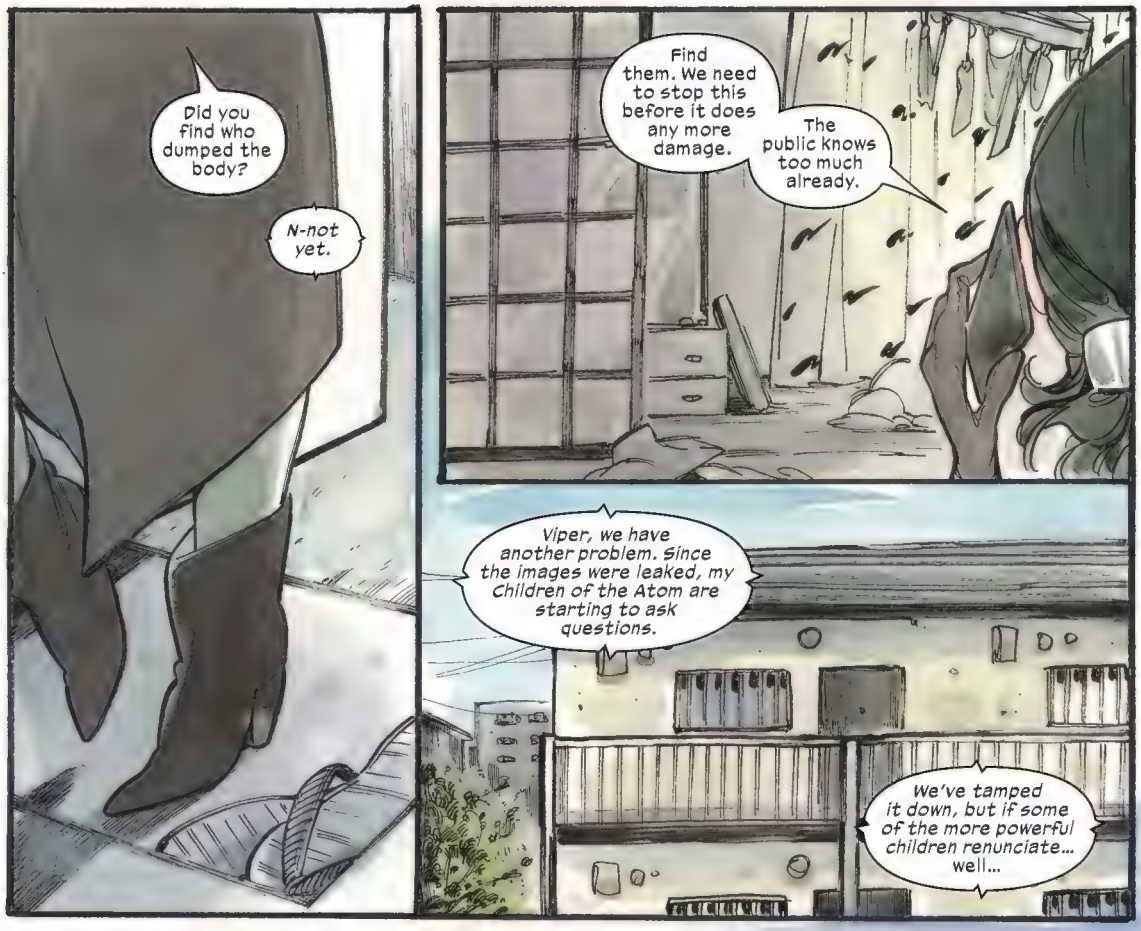

Ahhhhh!!!
I'm on fire!!!
Help me!!!
Waaaahhhhh!!!
Where you at, Yukio?
Some random park in Kirisaki. I'm doing an investigation on that school with the suicides.
What about your last video? You said you'd post it at noon--it's two a.m....

Sorry. Totes forgot to edit and upload. I'll do it tomorrow.
Don't tell me you're camping in your car again. You gotta be more careful...
Yeah, yeah. I'll be back by lunch. Talk to you then. Night!
Booooo! I was hoping if I came all the way out here, I'd catch a glimpse of that Armor Girl.
If I could be the first one to talk to her, my numbers would skyrocket.
No way.

Aahhh!!!
Protect? Protect what?!
A freaking cult?! What the hell?
No.
Damn.
WAY!

Umm... Miss...Armor Girl...?
ピコン!
S-sorry to bother you. I didn't expect to see you here--well, I was *hoping*, but...
...I'm...*uhh*... a streamer... Do you know Chimame from 8-chome Channel?

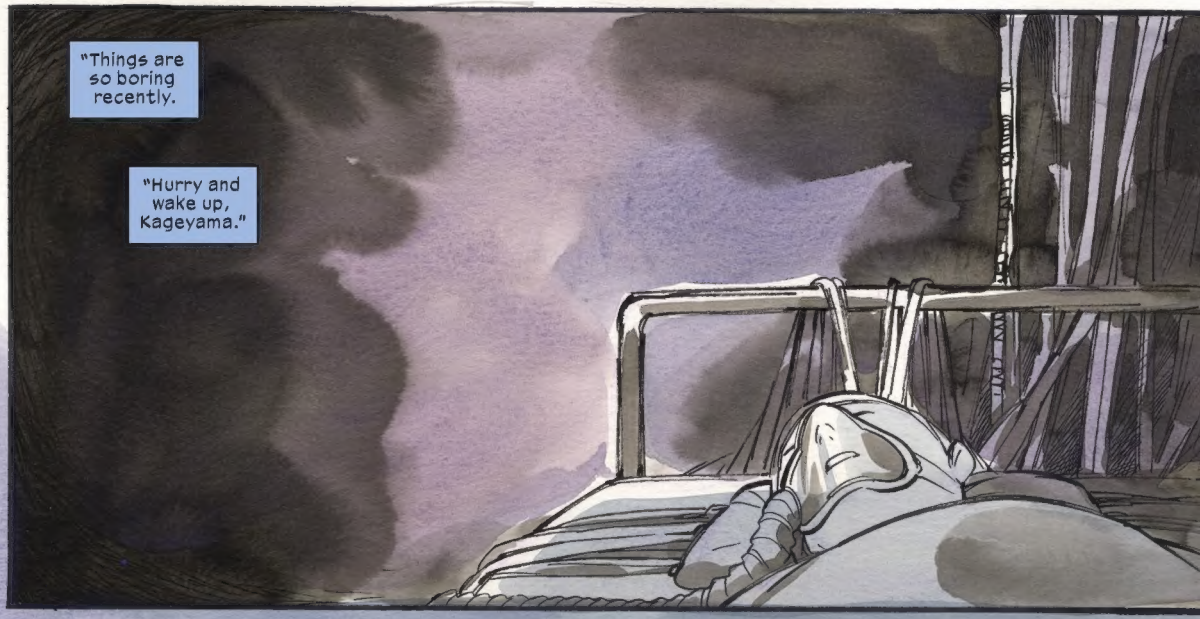
You are... Armor Girl, right?
Don't get me wrong. I'm totally on your side. I just wanted to ask you about your friend...
...Tsubasa?
If now's not a good time, we could trade numbers and--

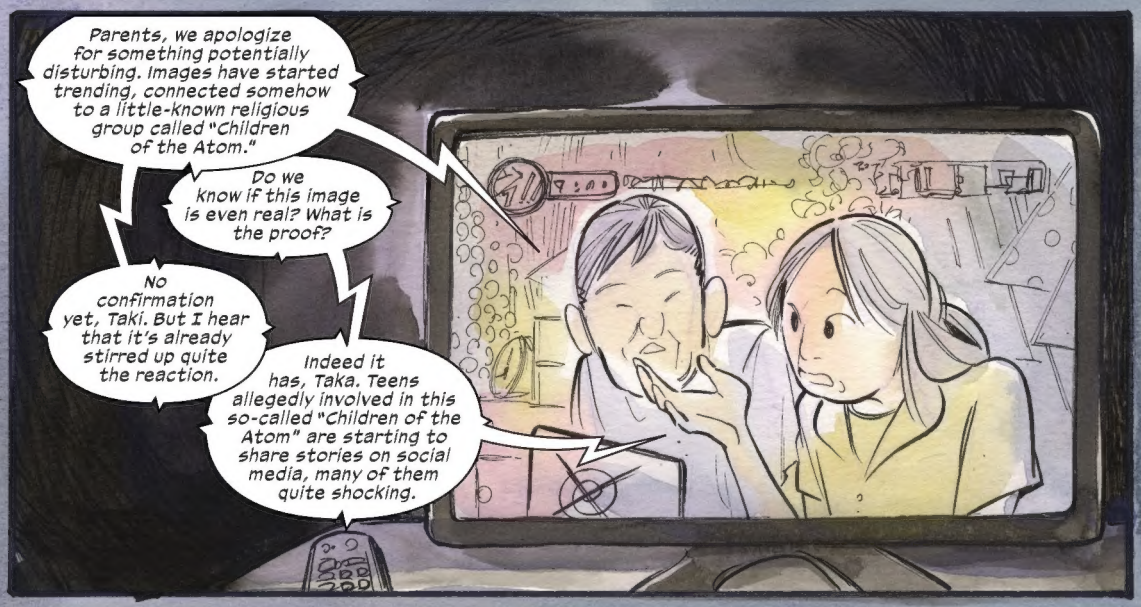

Did you find who dumped the body?
N-not yet.
Find them. We need to stop this before it does any more damage.
The public knows too much already.
Viper, we have another problem. Since the images were leaked, my Children of the Atom are starting to ask questions.
We've tamped it down, but if some of the more powerful children renunciate... well...

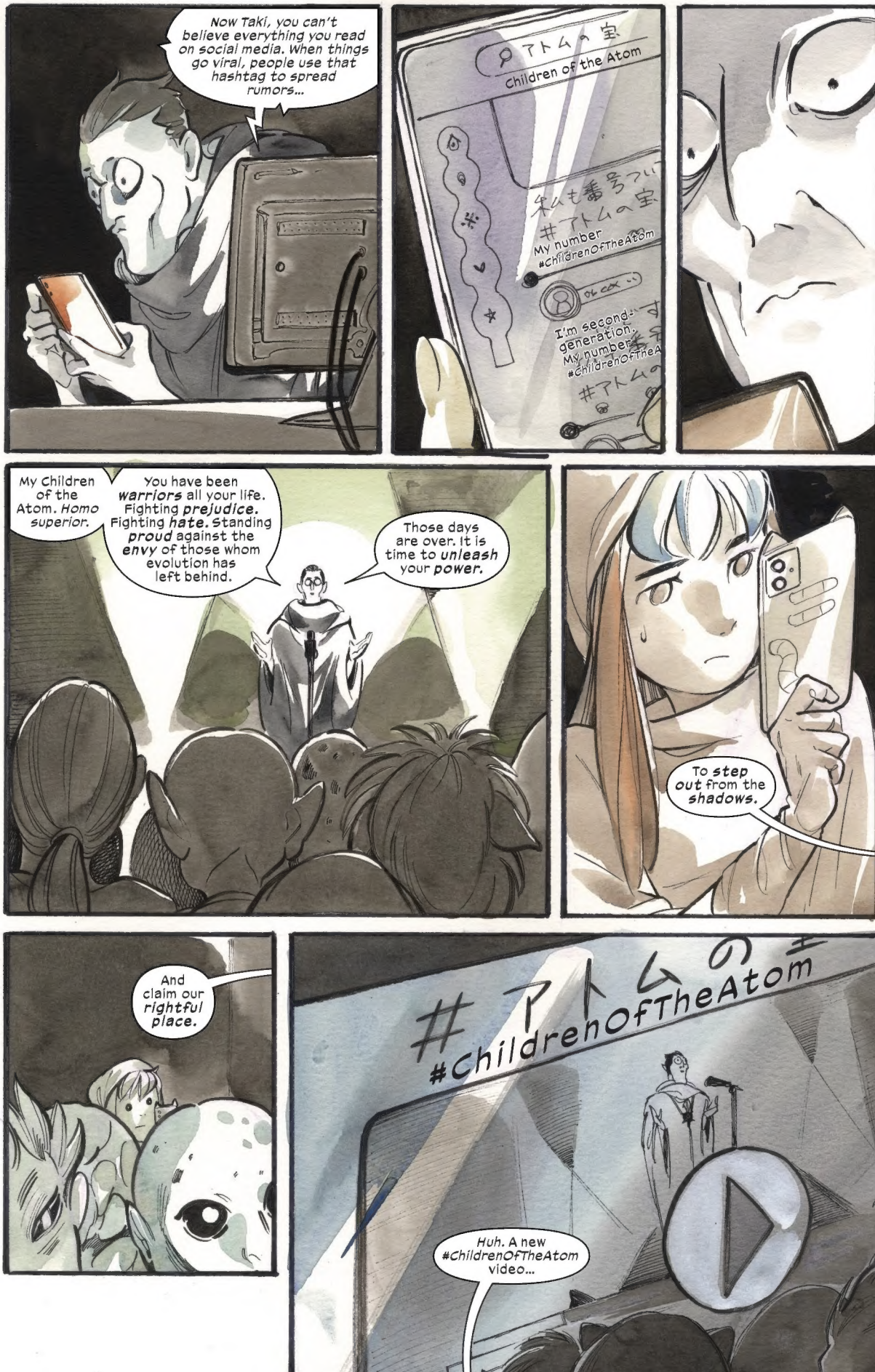
You are the Maester. Make them believe your words.
If you can't do that, you are of no use to us.
Now...
...where did our police officer disappear to? And his delinquent little sister.

Yo, Amano. Before you check out.
You do this?

Well, that's one way to disappear.


"Things are so boring recently.
"Hurry and wake up, Kageyama."


Parents, we apologize for something potentially disturbing. Images have started trending, connected somehow to a little-known religious group called "Children of the Atom."
Do we know if this image is even real? What is the proof?
No confirmation yet, Taki. But I hear that it's already stirred up quite the reaction.
Indeed it has, Taka. Teens allegedly involved in this so-called "Children of the Atom" are starting to share stories on social media, many of them quite shocking.


Now Taki, you can't believe everything you read on social media. When things go viral, people use that hashtag to spread rumors...
アトムの宝
Children of the Atom
My number
#ChildrenOfTheAtom
I'm second-generation.
My number
#ChildrenOfTheA
My Children of the Atom. Homo superior.
You have been warriors all your life. Fighting prejudice. Fighting hate. Standing proud against the envy of those whom evolution has left behind.
Those days are over. It is time to unleash your power.
To step out from the shadows.
And claim our rightful place.
#アトムの宝
#ChildrenOfTheAtom
Huh. A new #ChildrenOfTheAtom video...

That suitcase was connected to them somehow.
It was found in Arakawa River...
#ArmorGirl is from Kirigaya Minami.
All leads point to the same place... Kirisaki City.
To step out from the shadows.
And claim our rightful place.
Does that mean... the world is coming to an end?
Yes.
つづく
To be continued...

LEXICON

October is the month when the day starts to feel shorter. The sun sets not long after school, so staying late to talk to friends ends in a dark classroom.

日が暮れるのがぐんと早くなる月。
放課後 友達とペちゃくちゃ話をしているとあっという間に教室が暗くなってしまう…。
(いつものように)

Go home before it gets too dark.

Wha–?! Already?

And if you forgot something and have to go back...

忘物を取りに戻るもんなら…

It's okay, you guys go ahead. You have cram school tonight, right?

Oh crap! I forgot something!

The classroom that you're used to seeing in the daytime no longer looks the same...
And in the corner of the dark classroom, you might just encounter someone who isn't from this place...

日中の明るかった学校はそこには無くって…。暗い教室のすみっこには知らない子が座っている…かも…。

Phew...the doors are still open...